

Newsletter #11 - April – May 2012

1) Annual General Meeting: At the Annual General Meeting held on May 10th, all the directors currently serving agreed to stand and were subsequently re-elected. The directors and officers for the coming year are Mike Akerly (Secretary), John Barker (President), Bill Chapman, Sandi Dix, Elizabeth Hardy, Bill McAllister (Treasurer), Dave Reid, Jim Torry and Celia Utley. The President's Report can be seen on the website at www.westvancouverstreamkeepers.ca under the News tab.

2) Next Members Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 27th at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

3) Federal Fisheries Act: A letter was sent to the Fisheries Minister objecting to proposed changes to the Act that would weaken the habitat protection provisions. This was followed by a meeting with MP John Weston, and a further letter sent, urging the government to re-consider their position on these proposed changes.

4) Nelson Creek Hatchery: The 60,000 coho fry raised at our hatchery were released into local streams (Larson, Nelson, Eagle, Wood, Caulfeild, Rodgers, McDonald, Lawson, West Brothers and Hadden creeks) during the last week of May. Thanks to Elizabeth Hardy and her volunteer team for another successful season at the hatchery.

5) Adopt-a-Fish: This annual event, in conjunction with the Coho Society of the North Shore, was held on April 14th. On a mild, sunny morning, 350 coho smolts were adopted by elementary age school children and released into McDonald Creek opposite the Memorial Library. Celia Utley, Coordinator of Community Events, organized Streamkeepers' participation in the largest turnout yet. And a big thank-you to Councillors Mary-Ann Booth, Craig Cameron and Bill Soprovich, as well as MLA Ralph Sultan, for their participation.

6) Community Day: On June 2nd Streamkeepers had a display booth in the Sustainability Zone with other stewardship groups at Ambleside Park. New displays included an historic perspective with photographs accompanied by quotations received some years ago from a Streamkeepers' interview with Chief Simon Baker. We also had invertebrate samples from our local creeks provided by Thibault Doix. The children painted approximately 300 yellow fish in recognition of the storm drain marking program. This was a well-attended event with what turned out to be near perfect weather. The next community event will be the Coho Festival on September 9th.

7) Property Development: Coordinator Sandi Dix provided an information session for several members on March 23rd. Construction sites were visited to ensure compliance with creek protection by-laws. This is an on-going Streamkeeper activity and sites are visited where construction activity could have an impact on local streams. Environmental Development Permit

applications are reviewed at the monthly meeting with the District and then the construction phase is monitored by Streamkeepers.

8) Memorial Park Coho Salmon Rearing Pond: Streamkeepers and District staff will be going before municipal Council on June 18th seeking approval to proceed with the construction of the proposed rearing pond. To date \$70,000 has been raised with another \$15,000 of in-kind contributions committed to the project.

9) Student Outreach: On April 27th the Environmental Protection Network students at West Vancouver Secondary School were treated to a pizza luncheon to celebrate the completion of this school year and to welcome prospective members who will work with Streamkeepers starting in September. Thank-you to Park Royal Shopping Centre for hosting this event. On May 7th four EPN student leaders (Angelica Noh, Stephanie Chang, Emily Wei and Su Ji An), who had been nominated by Streamkeepers, received Youth Appreciation Awards from the District.

10) Storm Drain Marking: On April 29th, Streamkeepers led six teams of children and parents from the North Shore Unitarian Church who painted 124 storm drains. A donation of \$371 was received from the church for our leadership in this environmental initiative. This was followed by students from Cypress Park Primary School who marked storm drains near their school. Over the past five years a total of 1,095 storm drains have now been marked with the öyellow fishö.

11) Temperature Loggers: For two years, masterø student, Matt Casselman, assisted by Streamkeepers, has been monitoring water temperature in Brothers and Hadden creeks. His study is now completed and Streamkeepers will take over these loggers led by Coordinator Assunta Detels. With Mattø help we will be receiving some surplus loggers, relocating a few from the creeks being monitored and purchasing a few others. This will allow us to collect temperature data from Larson, Eagle, Cypress, Rodgers, McDonald and Lawson creeks as well as continuing to collect data from Brothers and Hadden creeks. Each of these creeks will need a team of two members whose task is to download the logger every three months. Anyone willing to assist in this task, please contact Assunta at assuntadetels@gmail.com

12) Volunteer Coordinator: Jim Torry assumed the position of Volunteer Coordinator in April and his mission is to connect the membership with the committee coordinators. The purpose is to ensure that any member wishing to participate in any of our wide range of activities is able to make the connection with the coordinator of that activity. If there is an area in which you would like to become involved please contact Jim at jaytee2@shaw.ca

13) Funding: A sincere thank-you to Park Royal Shopping Centre, Pacific Arbour Retirement Communities, British Pacific Properties and the RBC Foundation for making sustained funding contributions to the Streamkeeper organization. This is most welcome, particularly in a year that our Fisheries and Oceans PIP (public involvement participation) grant has been reduced due to cost cutting measures.

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